

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 092322
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EWG:RILLING/MPH
APPROVED BY AF:TWSEELYE
S/S-O:SSTEINER
EWG:RPOST

-----240352Z 099408 /70

O 240334Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 092322

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, US

SUBJECT: WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN OFFICIALS AND FAMILIES

1. DEPARTMENT HAS ORGANIZED AROUND THE CLOCK WORKING GROUP TO HANDLE WASHINGTON ASPECTS OF CLOSURE US FACILITIES IN ETHIOPIA. AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLELE HEADS GROUP WITH RICHARD POST SERVING AS DEPUTY. DOD IS EXPLORING WAYS OF GETTING MILITARY AIRCRAFT INTO ASMARA FOR REMOVAL OF BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT. FOR EVACUATION IN ADDIS, WE WOULD PREFER TO RELY ON COMMERCIAL FACILITIES AND MAC HAS ALREADY IDENTIFIED A CHARTER AIRCRAFT AVAILABLE ON APRIL 25 AT 2100 HOURS IN RHEIN-MAIN, GERMANY. IT IS WORLD AIRWAYS DC-8 STRETCH WITH CAPACITY OF 219 TO 252. YOU SHOULD EXPLORE OTHER COMMERCIAL CHARTER POSSIBILITIES FROM ADDIS. AT THIS POINT WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WISE THAT WE OPERATE ON ASSUMPTION THAT FOUR DAY DEAD-

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LINE IS INFLEXIBLE.

2. YOU SHOULD GET USIS AND MILITARY PEOPLE IN ADDIS PACKING AND ATTEMPT TO GET THEM OUT, AS SPACE BECOMES AVAILABLE ON COMMERCIAL AIRLINES.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ESTIMATE OF HOW MUCH WE CAN RELY

ON EPMG TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SECURITY DURING EVACUATION AND LATER FOR PROTECTION OF OUR PROPERTY, PARTICULARLY AT ASMARA. ARE THERE ANY STEPS, SUCH AS PLACING THE FSL'S IN OUR BUILDINGS, THAT WE CAN TAKE TO PROTECT OUR PROPERTY IN ASMARA?

4. YOU SHOULD TAKE ANY OTHER STEPS YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE TO PROTECT BOTH GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE PROPERTY IN ADDIS. THIS COULD INCLUDE CONSOLIDATING PROPERTY, PARTICULARLY AUTOMOBILES, IN EMBASSY COMPOUND.

5. IS IT YOUR UNDERSTANDING THAT WESTINGHOUSE AND ANY OTHER TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVES UNDER MAAG ARE ALSO INCLUDED IN EPMG DECISION TO CLOSE MAAG?

6. YOU SHOULD INFORM PRIVATE AMERICANS OF OUR INTENTIONS TO COMPLY WITH EPMG NOTES, BUT YOU SHOULD NOT MAKE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT PRIVATE CITIZENS.

7. SUGGEST YOU CONSIDER INFORMING EPMG THAT WAUCHOPE HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED TO STAFF OF EMBASSY, AND THAT YOU PLAN TO HAVE HIM REMAIN IN ASMARA TEMPORARILY TO HANDLE NECESSARY BUSINESS OF TERMINATING LOCAL EMPLOYEES, PAYING CONSULATE BILLS, AND OTHER NECESSARY ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES. WE REALIZE THIS MAY NOT WORK, BUT CONSIDER IT WORTH TRYING.

8. ARE THE RESPONSIBLE LOCAL EMPLOYEES TO CLOSE THE USIS READING ROOMS OUTSIDE OF ADDIS?

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9. FOR ASMARA. WE ASSUME YOU ARE PROCEEDING TO DESTROY CLASSIFIED FILES. SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR REMOVAL WITH KAGNEW MATERIAL

OR FOR DESTRUCTION IF REMOVAL SHOULD NOT PROVE POSSIBLE.

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Message Attributes

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